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## CHRISTMASINOTHERLANDS

LADIES OF THE FOREIGN LEGATIONS DESCRIBE ITS CELEBRATION.

A Christmas in Mexico by Madame Romero -The Feast of the Posados-The Holydays of Old England by Lady Pauncefote -Roast Beef, Plum Pudding, and Mince Pies-Christmas in the Fatherland by Fraulein Kotzenberg and Something About the Christmas Dinners of Germany - Christmas Among the Esquimaux by Gen. Greely.

Washington will celebrate Christmas in all its glory. Santa Claus is alive and his Washington tour will include every stocking from that of Baby McKee in the White House to those of the poorest darkey boys who swarm by the thousands in our Washington alleys. Tons of turkeys, great crates of roast geese, and hundreds of fat 'possums are now in the markets, and enough evergreen and holly is shown to decorate the Capitol, the Washington Monument, the White House, and all of the big Government Departments from their tops to their bottoms. The most interesting of the Christmas celebrations, however, will be those of the legations. Every Christian nation keeps Christmas in its own way, and I have to-day had a number of interesting chats as to Christmas in other lands. CHRISTMAS IN MEXICO.

Madame Romero, the wife of the Mexican Minister, gives me a picture of the day there. Said she: "Christmas in Mexico is always more or less a religious festival. It is in consequence by no means so joyous an occasion as in Europe and this country, where the observances partake so largely of a social nature. Were a stranger to visit Mexico at that time as the guest of an American family of residents there he would find the same American Christmas customs observed. We, for instance, would keep the day in the same way. But you would find it different among the pure Mexican families. They know nothing of hanging up their stockings on Christmas night, and the Mexican children look upon New Year's and their birthdays as the times when they are to be made much of and are sure to receive presents. Every one in Mexico is named for some saint and the favorite saint is Guadelupe. Still there is a saint for every day in the year, and the saint days are the gift days. It is customary to keep hanging on the lookingglass a calendar on which the list of saint days is printed, and one has only to refer to this to keep posted as to the birthdays of her friends tives The presents given at such times are regulated by the circumstances of the donors. Sometimes it is only a few flowers, or when the acquaintance is recent or not intimate visiting cards only are sent. This is in order that the person may realize that his birthday is remembered, and though the acquaintance be slight it is always taken as a compliment.

HOLIDAY FEASTS IN MEXICO. "As to the Christmas ceremonies," Madame Romero continued, "there is a morning service in the churches from 5 until 11 o'clock, at which time the altars are decorated with flowers. The holiday festivities begin a week before Christmas, and the Posados are observed by all families whose names will permit. In former times the Posados were a mixed social and religious festival. They began by a procession headed by the Virgin, who asked to be received at each house during the period of her journey with Joseph previous to the birth of Christ. During the progress of the procession there is, of course, considerable praying and singing, after which the religious features of the occasion are at an end, dancing begins, and merriment terminates in a grand supper. The especial feature of this feast is the Christmas night salad, salada de la noche Buena, made of lettuce, beets, celery, and mayonnaise dressing. With this is served boned turkey, jellies, and black coffee, the flavor of which in Mexico is especially delicious. This supper immediately succeeds the misa de gallo, the impressive midnight mass. The seventh day of the Posados falls on Christmas eye, when the nacimento takes place. This curious custom portrays by means of dolls the various races and their occupations, the puppets being carefully dressed after the manner of each country represented. Where the wealth of a family will admit of such a thing individual exhibits are held. The whole is preserved intact for weeks after Christmas, and nightly exhibited to relatives or specially invited friends. At the present day the Posados contain far less of their religious character than formerly, and are retained almost ex-clusively as social gatherings."

CHRISTMAS AT THE NORTH POLE. Of all the noted travelers in Washington there is not one who has spent a sadder Christmas than Gen. Greely, the head of the Signal Service. I talked with him last night as to his Christmas of 1883. It was spent in the miserable little but of ice and snow at Cape Sabine. Cape Sabine was reached by the party of Arctic explorers in their southward search for succor in October, and on the 20th of that month Gen. Greely and the men under his charge took possession of the hut. Although the scant supply of food showed a steady decrease from this date the men, one and all, seemed by common consent to buoy up their spirits, looking forward to the great Christmas festival as though it were to prove, even in that land of drifting snow and eternal ice, a time of merriment and rejoicing. All the while, with the frightful silence of the polar night about them, the cruel ice king ever advancing nearer and nearer with his life-de-stroying touch, the party of explorers were looking forward to the winter solstice, the burst of sunlight through the gloom which should announce the coming of the Christmas child, the birthday of the Lord, the cradling of the infant Jesus in Bethlehem.

At length the morning dawns for which all have so long looked forward, and with the barometer at 29.93, thermometer at 35.5, a break-fast is served of thin soup of peas and carrots,



The cooks having been allotted an extra gill of rum on that occasion did their duty bravely, notwithstanding the great trouble which they encountered from the smoke, there being very little wind. The menu consisted of a fine rich stew of all seal meat, with onions, a little blubber, potatoes, and bread crumbs. This dish was enjoyed, not only because of the savory ingredients, but because in the diary of each and all is chronicled the pathetic fact that the quantity for the once was sufficient to satisfy

After the lapse of an hour a dessert was served of another stew, this time of raisins, blubber, and milk. At 7 o'clock each man was given a cup of hot chocolate, over which they lingered long, exchanging reminiscences of home, recalling luxuries of every description, and entering into a compact to pass the next Christmas to-gether, should fate allow of them returning to civilization. Then followed singing, the various songs taken from the French, German, Danish, and Innuit. So ended Gen. Greely's Christmas Day at the North Pole, the last spent by him at Cape Sabine, and to many of his brave men the last ever spent upon earth. The only mention made of anything in the nature of gifts that day is in regard to Kislingbury, who, knowing that many of the men were entirely out of their supply of tobacco, kindly made for each of the party a eigarette.

THE CHRISTMAS SUN PEAST OF THE ESQUIMAUX. When asked whether the season was celebrated in any sense as a religious festival among the Esquimaux, Gen. Greely said that while the race were by no means a heathen people, yet their celebration of Christmas so far from being in accordance with the Christian significance is distinctly traceable to the ancient celebration of the sun feast. This is in reality the hyemal or winter solstice, which falls about December 22, and is kept as a period of rejoicing at the return of the sun, which to the Esquimaux means not only an end of the long dreary night, but is the return of weather propitious for good hunting and fishing. Interesting accounts of this sun feast chronicled by a Moravian priest early in 1700 states that the people baving assembled in large parties from all over the country amuse themselves with sports of an athletic nature and treat one another to the best fare their larder provides. After gorging themselves the Esquimaux rise up to play and dance. There was no danger of intoxication on these early celebra-tions of the sun feast, since water was the only beverage known. The one musical instrument of the people is a drum formed of a wooden or whalebone hoop, two fingers in breadth, which on one side is covered with a thin vellum or the skin of a whale's tongue. This drum, slightly oval, has a long handle by which the Greenlander holds it in his right hand, striking it the while upon the under side with his left hand. At every stroke he gives a grotesque little hop, swaying his head and body to the time, two strokes falling in every crotchet. The song of

event of the day, the Christmas dinner, in honor of which a brave show of lights was made in the the oft-repeated chorus, "Amna Ajah, Ajah, -ah!" forms a complete cantata, thus:

"The welcome sun returns again, Amna, sjah, ajah, ah—hu, And brings us weather fine and fair, Amna, ajah, ajah, ah—hu!"

This sort of thing lasts for several days and nights, either until the entire stock of provisions is exhausted or the people are too exhausted to sing or move. Whoever has succeeded in making the greatest number of droll contortions of the body bears thereafter the proud distinction of master musician. When the moon shines they play at ball in a manner similar to that followed in this country. This general season of games by no means excludes the children, who, after the fashion with which we are all familiar in this country, join hands, form a circle, and hop about, singing as they make the

These drum dances may with justice be called the Olympic games of the Greenlanders.

CHRISTMAS AMONG THE ARCTIC DANES. It will readily be seen that this ancient observance is very closely allied to the Christmas of to-day in the Arctic regions, where since the teachings of the Moravians and later the Danish priests have become apparent the season is generally observed as a seven days' holiday, during which no one does work of any description. Every one dresses in his best attire, and having provided an extra amount of seal, fish, or game for this period, blubber being used only for lighting purposes, proceeds to make merry with his friends according to the native idea, which is to eat to repletion. Though liquor is strictly forbidden by law throughout the Danish provinces, yet on the notable occasion of Christmas Day it is customary for the person in authority to give to each man a small measure of schnapps, which is relished accordingly. Early in the morning the young people, headed by the cate-chist, go for a round of the neighborhood, stopping at each house to sing a psalm. This cus-

tom likewise prevails at Easter. Such a thing as the giving of presents on Christmas Day, or, indeed, on any occasion, among the Esquimaux is wholly unknown. Strangely enough, they are as a race absolutely lacking in gratitude, even in the definition of a lively sense of benefits to come." On Christ mas Day or any time any one, friend or stranger, may enter a native hut. Though no salutation is vouchsafed nor hospitality proffered it is generally understood that one is welcome to whatever the place affords, however much may be required or to whatever length the stay may be prolonged. No protest will be offered, but when the guest leaves, in the event of his being a European, the host calls out: "Don't hurt thy head,32 (that is, against the ceiling of the door-

Sometimes Christmas is marked at the chief stations by a ball, at which the natives emulate the Furopean style of dancing. The sole prepawith a little blubber and some spoonfuls of potations. This meal was eaten at 6 o'clock, after which cloudberries were served out—two cans to each mess. At 10'clock came the grand of the sun to the hemisphere. Every stanza is

women of the party it is marked as memorable for luxuriousness.

CHRISTMAS IN OLD ENGLAND.

Christmas in merry old England, though no longer marked by the presence of the boar's head crowned with holly at the feast, or the yule log, save in those old houses where the width of the fireplace will permit the continuance of this custom, is nevertheless now, as of old, a season of merrymaking, of family gathering, of feasting to-day and regretting to-morrow, of overeating generally. A day for children, for games, for music, in the evening, winding up with Sir Roger de Coverly, danced by young and old under the mistletce and holly. "Christmas of to-day in England," said Lady Pauncefote, "is kept up with all the good old customs, even to the turkey and plum pudding, which on that day reigns supreme. "Roast beef?

"Yes, certainly, we have that as well, though it is by no means the important feature of the table, which Americans generally imagine to be the case. With us it is as customary to serve roast beef some time during the course of the day as it is to have tea at 5 o'clock. Many o the servants in England are so superstitious that they will not remain in a house where beef is not served every day, for they consider a day without it would mean a day of disaster to the es tablishment. For many weeks before Christ-mas every one is busy in the preparation of their gifts, for the interchange of such things is very general, though I think, save in families of wealth, it is customary to select for this occasion things of a useful nature. Where there are children in the family the dressing of the tree is a very important operation, but in this I think the American plan by far the best. We have a stupld fashion in England when we have a tree of putting everything on instead of placing the consequence is that many of the pretty gifts are spoiled by the dripping of hot wax from the lighted tapers. The tree is kept as a surprise until Christmas Eve, when the doors of the com are suddenly thrown open and from the darkness shines out the beautiful tree, and the children troop in, followed by their elders and such young friends as have been asked in for the evening. After the distribution of presents games are introduced, the favorite being snap dragon. This is a large bowl of brandy carried into a dark room lighted, and every one then in turn tries their success at picking from the sheet of blue flame one or more of the raisins which plentifully bestrew its surface. Christmas morning, when the family enters the breakfast-room, it is to find neatly piled at each place such gifts as have fallen to their share and in consequence the meal is a most pleasant one, for every one is good-humored and inclined to look at the world through rose-colored spectacles. After church the family return for a bot luncheon at 2 o'clock. This meal generally includes roast beef and mince pies, which are served as a separate course, and are made in the form of small, round tartlets instead of the large ple customary in America.

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## IN THE HOLIDAY RUSH

THE POPULAR BOYS AND GIRES ARE NOT FORGOTTEN.

The Votes Still Come Pouring In for Thems ... by the Hundreds-The Standing of the Various Candidates Up to Last Night.

The distractions of the holiday season have not interferred with the influx of answers to THE HERALD'S conundrum, "Who is the most popular boy or girl in Washington?" So thoroughly has the interest of THE HERALD'S host of readers, young and old, been aroused in the matter that the approach of Christmas has not kept them from sending in their votes for

not kept them from sending in their votes for the young people whom they regard as most worthy of the title and the beautiful and valuable presents that will go to the winner of it.

The holiday season has stirred up the friends of all the candidates borne on The Herald's list, and votes have come in for them during the week in generous numbers. This seems to be in accordance with The Herald's suggestion of last week that no better Christmas gift can be given any boy or girl than a big block of votes, which will help the chosen candidate to win the handsome pair of ponies and the surry which will be awarded as first prize.

The candidates up to last night stood in the following order, according to the number of votes cast for them:

1. Edith W. Hough, 245 N. Capitol street.

2. Madge Gilbert. Takoma Park.

3. Helen Seufferle, 200 S street northwest.

4. George L. Dietz, 239 New Jersey avenue northwest.

5. Edward Fisher McKnew, 2424 Fourteenth

northwest. 5. Edward Fisher McKnew, 2424 Fourteenth street northwest.
6. Edward E. Darby, 1245 Twenty-ninth street

northwest.
7. Clarence E. Frey, 3010 P street northwest.
8. Fannie Rudderforth, 815 First street north-

9. Lucile Colby, 1327 F street north west.
10. Maria Pushaw, 1314 Vermont avenue.
11. Flora Manning, 1323 T street northwest.
12. Herbert H. Doyle, 3016 O street northwest.
13. Irene R. Wallach, 129 Indiana avenuenorthment.

14. Benjamin Harrison McKee, Executive Man-

Garnett L. Hobbs, 809 K street northwest.
 R. Golden Donaldson, 200 T hirteenth street

southwest, 17. Katharine May Brooks, 2304 Fourteenth

street northwest.

18. Hattie Morrow, 418 Eighth street southwest.

19. Henry Sherwood, 1017 E. Capitol street.

20. Clarence L. Park, 715 S street northwest.

21. Clement T. Keyworth, 1907 H street north-

Walter Foster, 942 S street northwest. Welhelmina LaHayne, 1117 B street south-

24. Richard Drum White, 1336 I street northwest. 25. Charles T. Davis, Jr., 1436 Q street north-

20. John C. McCubben, 938 S street northwest. 27. Teresa Belle Kondrup, 1001 New Hampshire

avenue. 28. Willis M. Baum, 712 B street southwest. 20. Katie E. Gaskins, 1205 Twenty-eighth st

northwest. 30. Roberta S. Gillis, 128 D street northwest. 31. William Charles Hammett, 804 Twentieth street northwest.

32. George W. Vierbuchen, 340 Eighth street 33. E. Frank Davis, 1544 Ninth street northwest. 34. Don Allen, 1305 Q street northwest. 35. Nannie L. Armbruster, 2617 K street north-

36. Bessie Ciarke Baker, 1819 K street northwest.
37. Irene L. Moore, 494 G street southwest,
38. Charles F. Williams, 311 D street northwest.
39. Frank Ray Howe, 1701 I street northwest.
40. Marguerite Wrenn, 1004 C street southwest.
41. Frank Ghiselli, 1736 Pennsylvania avenue-

42. Lizzie Van Vleck, 407 Fourth street north-

43. Charles F. Sterne, 311 D street northwest.
44. Willie B. Caperton, 1804 G street northwest.
45. E. M. Hail, 3024 N inth street southeast.
46. Fannie R. Harkness, 1804 I street northwest.
47. Ada Dermody, 817 F street northwest.
48. Charlotte Baldy Gridley, 706 L street northwest.

49. Nellie Chase, 2) E street northwest, 50. John Graham, 823 Thirteenth street north-

west, 51. Richard J. Riggles, 445 Q street northwest, 52. Ethel Wyckoff, 903 Massachusetts avenue

northeast. 53. James Joseph Winchester, 2013 G street 4. Katharine Wright Saxton, Kenesawayenue,

Mt. Pleasant. 55. Blanche Kepner, 1130 Twelfth street northwest. 56. Frances T. Towers, 1341 Fourteenth street

57. John Naylor Swartzell, 1107 N street north-58. Samuel Shellabarger, Jr., 812 Seventeenth

street northwest. 59. Charles E. March, 909 Massachusetts avenue Neilie T. Breuninger, 724 Thirteenth street

northwest, 61. William Henry Hamilton, 613 South Carolina avenue southeast, 62. George H. League, 724 Thirteenth street 63. Christian Jacobsen, 1227 Twentleth street

northwest.

for ten days.

More Ways of Spoiling Children.

Evening World. If you wish to cultivate a gossiping, med-

dling, censorious spirit in your children, be sure when they come home from church, a visit, or any other place where you do not ac-company them, to ply them with questions con-cerning what everybody were, how everybody looked, and what everybody said and did; and if you find anything in this to censure always do it in their hearing. You may rest assured if you pursue a course of this kind they will not return to you unladen with intelligence; they will by degrees learn to embellish in such a manner as shall not fail to call forth remarks and expressions of wonder from you. You will by this course render the spirit of curiosity, which is so early visible in children, and which if rightly directed may be made the instrument of enriching and enlarging their minds, a vehicle of mischief which shall serve only to narrow

## An Epidemic of Marriage.

Boston Herald. Latest advices from England are to the effect that the institution of marriage is looking up, and more bachelors and spinsters are now wedding than for many years past. Whatever is done in London will be done over here; therefore we may expect shortly to see an increase in the marriage rate.

Excursions to Boston. Until further notice the B, and O, R. R. Co. will sell round-trip tickets from Washington to Boston and return, via the Poughkeepsle Bridge route, at rate of \$30.16. Tickets good